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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Air Cadets' Revolt at Baku

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1. Students in the Aeronautical School at Baku, described as "adjutants," but presumably cadets, have complained to the "School Soviet" of their treatment. They have--or so they say--for some time been treated as if they were men under disciplinary punishment, by their commandants. No reason for such treatment is stated. It may be merely unusual severity (or what students regarded as unusual severity) in school discipline. The air students further complained that the food and the clothing provided for them left much to be desired.
2. These complaints had not passed through channels, that is, through the commandant's headquarters, before reaching the Soviet. The students were therefore considered to be in a state of mutiny. They were deprived of still other privileges. At this point, a school meeting was called. Students took the floor and expressed their opinions in no uncertain terms, in an effort to influence their fellows.
3. The commandant attempted to break up the meeting by force and met with physical resistance from his students--an extraordinary situation in a military school. There was a fracas with results that are described as "bad enough."
4. Colonel Evgeni Lazareff was hurried from Nucha to investigate the affair.

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